

## General

### Title

Melanoma: is the surgeon who performs sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or lymph node dissection (LND) for melanoma certified by the American Board of Surgery or equivalent board or international association?

### Source(s)

Billimoria KY, Raval MV, Bentrem DJ, Wayne JD, Balch CM, Ko CY. National assessment of melanoma care using formally developed quality indicators. J Clin Oncol. 2009 Nov 10;27(32):5445-51. [PubMed](#)

## Measure Domain

### Primary Measure Domain

Clinical Quality Measures: Structure

### Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### Description

This measure is used to assess whether the surgeon who performs sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or lymph node dissection (LND) for melanoma is certified by the American Board of Surgery or equivalent board or international association.

### Rationale

There is considerable variation in the quality of cancer care delivered in the United States. This variability is also present in the diagnosis and treatment of melanoma. The management of melanoma is stage specific and has evolved considerably during the past few decades, which has possibly contributed to such variation in care.

Melanoma is the sixth-most common malignancy in the United States, and it ranks second in terms of loss of years of potential life. As the incidence of melanoma continues to increase, there is a need to

assess, monitor, and standardize the care of patients with melanoma. Quality indicators may help to reduce the hospital-to-hospital discrepancy in melanoma care.

## Evidence for Rationale

Bilimoria KY, Balch CM, Bentrem DJ, Talamonti MS, Ko CY, Lange JR, Winchester DP, Wayne JD. Complete lymph node dissection for sentinel node-positive melanoma: assessment of practice patterns in the United States. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2008 Jun;15(6):1566-76. [PubMed](#)

Bilimoria KY, Bentrem DJ, Feinglass JM, Stewart AK, Winchester DP, Talamonti MS, Ko CY. Directing surgical quality improvement initiatives: comparison of perioperative mortality and long-term survival for cancer surgery. *J Clin Oncol*. 2008 Oct 1;26(28):4626-33. [PubMed](#)

Bilimoria KY, Raval MV, Bentrem DJ, Wayne JD, Balch CM, Ko CY. National assessment of melanoma care using formally developed quality indicators. *J Clin Oncol*. 2009 Nov 10;27(32):5445-51. [PubMed](#)

Charles CA, Yee VS, Dusza SW, Marghoob AA, Oliveria SA, Kopf A, Rigel D, Halpern AC. Variation in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of melanoma in situ: a survey of US dermatologists. *Arch Dermatol*. 2005 Jun;141(6):723-9. [PubMed](#)

Desmond RA, Soong SJ. Epidemiology of malignant melanoma. *Surg Clin North Am*. 2003 Feb;83(1):1-29. [74 references] [PubMed](#)

El-Maraghi RH, Kiehl AZ. PET vs sentinel lymph node biopsy for staging melanoma: a patient intervention, comparison, outcome analysis. *J Am Coll Radiol*. 2008 Aug;5(8):924-31. [41 references] [PubMed](#)

Gogas HJ, Kirkwood JM, Sondak VK. Chemotherapy for metastatic melanoma: time for a change. *Cancer*. 2007 Feb 1;109(3):455-64. [79 references] [PubMed](#)

Gold JS, Jaques DP, Busam KJ, Brady MS, Coit DG. Yield and predictors of radiologic studies for identifying distant metastases in melanoma patients with a positive sentinel lymph node biopsy. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2007 Jul;14(7):2133-40. [PubMed](#)

Lang PG Jr. Malignant melanoma. *Med Clin North Am*. 1998 Nov;82(6):1325-58. [83 references] [PubMed](#)

Mosca PJ, Teicher E, Nair SP, Pockaj BA. Can surgeons improve survival in stage IV melanoma. *J Surg Oncol*. 2008 Apr 1;97(5):462-8. [61 references] [PubMed](#)

Sondak VK, Taylor JM, Sabel MS, Wang Y, Lowe L, Grover AC, Chang AE, Yahanda AM, Moon J, Johnson TM. Mitotic rate and younger age are predictors of sentinel lymph node positivity: lessons learned from the generation of a probabilistic model. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2004 Mar;11(3):247-58. [PubMed](#)

## Primary Health Components

Melanoma; sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB); lymph node dissection (LND); American Board of Surgery or equivalent board or international association certification

## Denominator Description

This measure applies to surgeons who perform sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or lymph node

dissection (LND) for melanoma (one surgeon at a time).

## Numerator Description

The surgeon who performs sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or lymph node dissection (LND) for melanoma is certified by the American Board of Surgery or equivalent board or international association.

## Evidence Supporting the Measure

### Type of Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality for the Measure

A formal consensus procedure, involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, public health and organizational sciences

### Additional Information Supporting Need for the Measure

Unspecified

### Extent of Measure Testing

Quality indicators were identified from available literature, consensus guidelines, and melanoma experts. Thirteen experts ranked potential measures for validity on the basis of the RAND/University of California, Los Angeles Appropriateness Methodology. Adherence with individual valid indicators and a composite measure of all indicators were assessed at 1,249 Commission on Cancer hospitals by using the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB; 2004 through 2005). Of 55 proposed quality indicators, 26 measures (47%) were rated as valid.

Refer to the reference listed below for further details.

### Evidence for Extent of Measure Testing

Bilimoria KY, Raval MV, Bentrem DJ, Wayne JD, Balch CM, Ko CY. National assessment of melanoma care using formally developed quality indicators. J Clin Oncol. 2009 Nov 10;27(32):5445-51. [PubMed](#)

## State of Use of the Measure

### State of Use

Current routine use

### Current Use

not defined yet

## Application of the Measure in its Current Use

## Measurement Setting

Ambulatory/Office-based Care

Ambulatory Procedure/Imaging Center

Hospital Inpatient

Hospital Outpatient

## Professionals Involved in Delivery of Health Services

not defined yet

## Least Aggregated Level of Services Delivery Addressed

Individual Clinicians or Public Health Professionals

## Statement of Acceptable Minimum Sample Size

Does not apply to this measure

## Target Population Age

Does not apply to this measure

## Target Population Gender

Does not apply to this measure

## National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care

### National Quality Strategy Aim

Better Care

### National Quality Strategy Priority

## Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Health Care Quality Report Categories

### IOM Care Need

Not within an IOM Care Need

## IOM Domain

Not within an IOM Domain

## Data Collection for the Measure

### Case Finding Period

Does not apply to this measure

### Denominator Sampling Frame

Professionals/Staff

### Denominator (Index) Event or Characteristic

Health Professional Characteristic

### Denominator Time Window

not defined yet

### Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

#### Inclusions

This measure applies to surgeons who perform sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or lymph node dissection (LND) for melanoma (one surgeon at a time).

#### Exclusions

None

### Exclusions/Exceptions

not defined yet

### Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

#### Inclusions

The surgeon who performs sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or lymph node dissection (LND) for melanoma is certified by the American Board of Surgery or equivalent board or international association.

#### Exclusions

None

### Numerator Search Strategy

Fixed time period or point in time

## Data Source

Administrative management data

## Type of Health State

Does not apply to this measure

## Instruments Used and/or Associated with the Measure

Unspecified

## Computation of the Measure

### Measure Specifies Disaggregation

Does not apply to this measure

## Scoring

Dichotomous

## Interpretation of Score

Desired value is presence of a characteristic

## Allowance for Patient or Population Factors

not defined yet

## Standard of Comparison

not defined yet

## Identifying Information

### Original Title

If a surgeon performs SLNB or LND for melanoma, then the surgeon must be certified by the American Board of Surgery or equivalent board or international association.

### Measure Collection Name

Melanoma Quality Indicators

## Submitter

Karl Y. Bilimoria, MD, MS on behalf of the American College of Surgeons' Melanoma Quality Indicator Development Expert Panel - Independent Author(s)

## Developer

American College of Surgeons - Medical Specialty Society

## Funding Source(s)

Unspecified

## Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

The Melanoma Quality Indicator Development Expert Panel included 10 surgical oncologists who had a primary clinical focus in melanoma (Charles Balch, MD; Daniel Coit, MD; Stanley Leong, MD; Kelly McMasters, MD; Donald Morton, MD; Merrick Ross, MD; Vernon Sondak, MD; Kenneth Tenabe, MD; John Thompson, MD; and Jeffrey Wayne, MD), a medical oncologist (Michael Atkins, MD), a dermatologist (Mary Martini, MD), and a dermatologist/dermatopathologist (Arthur Sober, MD).

## Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

The author(s) indicated no potential conflicts of interest.

## Adaptation

This measure was not adapted from another source.

## Date of Most Current Version in NQMC

2009 Nov

## Measure Maintenance

Unspecified

## Date of Next Anticipated Revision

Unspecified

## Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

The measure developer reaffirmed the currency of this measure in January 2017.

## Measure Availability

Source available from the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#) .

For more information, contact Karl Bilimoria, MD, MS, Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care, American College of Surgeons, Department of Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, 633 Clark Street, Evanston, IL 60208; Email: [k-bilimoria@northwestern.edu](mailto:k-bilimoria@northwestern.edu).

## NQMC Status

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on May 18, 2012. This information was verified by the measure developer on July 11, 2012.

The information was reaffirmed by the measure developer on January 31, 2017.

## Copyright Statement

This NQMC summary is based on the original measure, which is subject to the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ACSO's) copyright restrictions. For permission to reuse, please contact [permissions@asco.org](mailto:permissions@asco.org).

## Production

## Source(s)

Bilimoria KY, Raval MV, Bentrem DJ, Wayne JD, Balch CM, Ko CY. National assessment of melanoma care using formally developed quality indicators. J Clin Oncol. 2009 Nov 10;27(32):5445-51. [PubMed](#)

## Disclaimer

### NQMC Disclaimer

The National Quality Measures Clearinghouse® (NQMC) does not develop, produce, approve, or endorse the measures represented on this site.

All measures summarized by NQMC and hosted on our site are produced under the auspices of medical specialty societies, relevant professional associations, public and private organizations, other government agencies, health care organizations or plans, individuals, and similar entities.

Measures represented on the NQMC Web site are submitted by measure developers, and are screened solely to determine that they meet the [NQMC Inclusion Criteria](#).

NQMC, AHRQ, and its contractor ECRI Institute make no warranties concerning the content or its reliability and/or validity of the quality measures and related materials represented on this site. Moreover, the views and opinions of developers or authors of measures represented on this site do not necessarily state or reflect those of NQMC, AHRQ, or its contractor, ECRI Institute, and inclusion or hosting of measures in NQMC may not be used for advertising or commercial endorsement purposes.

Readers with questions regarding measure content are directed to contact the measure developer.